

The Twilight Zone Companion

by

Tara Bennett



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Synopsis

"The Twilight Zone" has captivated, teased and haunted the imaginations of countless millions of viewers from its 1959 debut through its 156 subsequent episodes and many years of steady rebroadcast.

Sort review

The Twilight Zone Companion is one of the finest examinations of a television series. Author Marc Scott Zicree spent five years researching and writing what is without a doubt the definitive look at this classic horror-fantasy-science fiction show. (The series originally ran from 1959 to 1965, but is still seen in syndication around the world.) Not only is the book an exhaustive episode-by-episode guide, but the author apparently interviewed every living soul who was ever associated with the show. It's quite likely that creator Rod Serling, who died before the book saw publication in 1982, would have been suitably impressed by the respect and dedication that clearly went into this labor of love. Zicree later revised and expanded The Twilight Zone Companion for a second edition in 1989, and discusses both the briefly revived series and the feature film based on the show. --Stanley Wiater
From Library Journal
From its signature theme song, to its many memorable images, to its very name, Rod Serling's The Twilight Zone is ingrained in our collective conscious like no other TV show. In this 40th-anniversary, updated edition of his 1982 American Book Award-nominated volume, Zicree takes readers through every episode of the show's five seasons (1959-64). In addition to credits and plot synopses, the author provides background on each episode, along with numerous pictures. Essential for all Zone fans
Aand who isn't one?
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Review
The Twilight Zone is ingrained in our collective conscious like no other TV show....
Essential for all Zone fans--and who isn't one? --Library Journal
In all ways, an admirable and engrossing volume. --Publishers Weekly
A captivating look at possibly the best TV series of all time. --Leonard Maltin
About the Author
MARC SCOTT ZICREE has created classic episodes of Star Trek: The Next Generation, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Babylon Five, Sliders, and others and is the author of the best-selling Twilight Zone Companion. He lives with his wife in West Hollywood.
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What people say about this book

DC Guy, "Want To Totally Captivate Your Children Into Going To Bed? This Made An Excellent Bedtime Story Source, Every Night For Years.. One night many years ago, I had to get my, now adult, then 6 and 4 years old daughters to go to bed and call it a day. Of course, like any parent, I promised them that I'd read them a story. And they sort of bought that line, but they really would not settle down, and made it absolutely clear that they wanted to hear something different. So out of desperation, I grabbed this beloved book, which by then was a very faded falling apart yellowing non acid free paperback from near my desk in my home office and read them both a story in their shared bedroom. It was from this book and it was "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street." Their eyes lit up and they were totally captivated and they settled down. They had never experienced anything like that story and they loved it. And that night I heard "more daddy, more daddy!!!!" So then I read them "Time Enough To Last," followed by "Third From The Sun," and partway through "Third From The Sun" they were sound asleep. After that, the problem was not getting them to go to bed. The problem became, as they would without parental pleading, wash up, brush their teeth and scoot into bed and almost always chant..."read, read, read more Twilight Zone." Yes, very quickly, every night, they wanted more than one episode story from this book read to them. And they loved it. Then when they had sleepovers in our home with their friends, an event every parent dreads as the pack of kids will almost never settle down for the night, our house was different. We became famous in the "sleepover circuit" of my kids and their friends as to having really cool bedtime stories. So we never ever had a problem of getting a pack of sleepover kids to call it a night. To a kid, we were the cool parents who did not just read them bed time stories. We were the cool parents who read the kids stories from the "Twilight Zone," not the stories that every kid had heard from Fairy Tale Books. It got to the point where, in our small town, the parents of sleepover kids would call and ask if it was really true that we read out kids stories from the Twilight Zone. Occasionally, one of the moms would come over the day before to check out what she had heard from her kids, my kids pals. And over coffee my wife and one or more of the moms of sleepover kids would read a story together and pick out what stories were deemed appropriate for little Susie, Liz, Tonya, Morgan, and more. Well it worked, and now today, my adult kids are reading the plot summaries to their kids from this book, who, and I've seen them scramble off to bed instantly for the nightly reading of bedtime stories from "The Twilight Zone Companion." Try it, your kids will love the stories. In fact these stories got my kids totally interested in Science Fiction, so the "X-Files" and "Star Trek Voyager." became staples of my kids viewing. Note that the stories in this book, all from "the Twilight Zone," have now become children's middle school literature. In some of the English Class anthologies, "The Monsters Are Due On Maple Street," is featured. Have fun and do take your sons and daughters to the "Twilight Zone," they will go to bed and then sleep without a fuss."

Reviewer Dr. Beth, "Very good episode guide, but a few issues. My husband and I really enjoy

watching marathons of The Twilight Zone shown twice a year at New Years and 4th of July on SciFi Channel. In the past, we'd figure out which episodes we'd want to watch based on an old episode guide I had printed off the internet. Given that this is a twice-yearly event for us, it seemed like actually buying an episode guide would be a worthwhile investment, so after during some research, I purchased this book by Marc Scott Zicree. For the most part, I've been very happy with THE TWILIGHT ZONE COMPANION. Zicree begins by talking about Twilight Zone creator Rod Serling, providing a mini-biography of Serling's early days and recounting the birth of the Twilight Zone series. Zicree then describes each of the five Twilight Zone seasons into individual chapters. He starts each of these chapters with an overview that season before moving into the individual episodes. Each episode breakdown includes the original air date, names of the writer, producer, director, and cast members; the exact text of Serling's opening and concluding narration; a plot summary; and additional facts and commentary provided by Zicree. At least one photo also accompanies each episode. Throughout the book, Zicree weaves in additional anecdotes about the show's major themes and players. For example, Chapter III features a 2-page look at "Serling as Narrator"; later in that same chapter, there are several pages of background information on frequent contributor Charles Beaumont. In his "After the Twilight Zone" chapter, Zicree discusses events following the conclusion of the original Twilight Zone in 1964. These include Rod Serling's follow-up projects, such as Night Gallery; Twilight Zone--The Movie; and a new Twilight Zone series appearing on TV in the 1980s. All of the above makes this book a very good episode guide. However, I do have a few issues with it. The main problem (and this has been noted by many other reviewers here) is that Zicree is VERY critical of MANY of the episodes. I think that most true Twilight Zone fans feel like this series was WAY ahead of its time and that even the worst episodes were still pretty darn good; from Zicree's review, however, you would think that there were maybe a few standout episodes and that's it--one wonders if he even liked the series at all! The other problem I had with the book was in the editing: when looking up episodes in the index, I found that the page number references were not always correct (particularly for the new Twilight Zone series episodes). Overall, if you are looking for a Twilight Zone episode guide, I would still recommend this book. However, I would also recommend taking Zicree's unnecessarily harsh commentary with a grain of salt."

starfire, "Where is page 41. Has anyone else had this problem, page 41 which should be the start of the review for Walking Distance has been replaced with the second page of the Acknowledgments. Now to be fair to Amazon I contacted them on Saturday and a replacement was delivered on Monday, the replacement book had same problem, have been informed if still not happy send book back, get refund, fair enough but I really want this book, and to end up having no book just for one wrong page? Maybe I will contact the printers in the U.S and ask if they could send me page 41 or a replacement book, who knows? Anyway the book would have 5 stars but for the missing page. I love to watch an episode make my own judgments then agree or

disagree with the author,i notice Mark Scott Zicree has been criticized by some reviewers, he has his opinion,we have ours.I do the same thing with FILM NOIR,Michael F. Keaneys Film Noir Guide an outstanding work,i don't always agree with him,its all part of the fun.Shame about page 41."

David Carey, "What all Companions should be. It is a testament to the talent of the author that there is so much information on "The Twilight Zone" given that it was first published nearly twenty years after the series ended. With so many episodes being on the recently released DVDs, I find it is a useful to select an episode you would like to watch, as well as having interesting behind the scenes information. I haven't read such a good Companion since the DS9 Companion."

Mistresscatty, "Must have for fans. Brilliant book - so well researched and it's so interesting getting the background to the episodes. Really is a must have if you have the DVD's"

Darren B, "Great company!. Always good service and value!"

The book by Tara Bennett has a rating of 5 out of 4.7. 270 people have provided feedback.

Book Information

Language: English

File size: 1414 KB

Simultaneous device usage: Unlimited

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Sticky notes: On Kindle Scribe

Print length: 113 pages

Hardcover: 192 pages

Item Weight: 1.41 pounds

Dimensions: 6 x 1.25 x 9 inches

Paperback: 466 pages

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